



## STRENGTHENING SOCIAL SECURITY: BY THE NUMBERS

According to a recent USA TODAY/CNN/Gallup survey, the percentage of Americans who believe, “the federal government should make major changes in the Social Security system to ensure its long-term future” in the next one to ten years<sup>1</sup>:

**81 percent**

According to the same survey, the percentage of Americans who believe that changes to the system are not needed<sup>2</sup>:

**16 percent**

Amount in annual benefits that a progressive indexing approach, such as Robert Pozen’s, would give a low-income 20-year-old who retires in 2050<sup>3</sup>:

**\$12,900 \***

Amount in annual benefits that the current Social Security system would give a low-income 20-year-old who retires in 2050<sup>4</sup>:

**\$9,400 \***

Amount in annual benefits that a progressive indexing approach, such as Robert Pozen’s, would give a middle-income 20-year-old who retires in 2050<sup>5</sup>:

**\$17,300 \***

Amount in annual benefits that the current Social Security system would give a middle-income 20-year-old who retires in 2050<sup>6</sup>:

**\$15,500 \***

<sup>1</sup> USA TODAY/CNN/Gallup poll of 1,006 national adults, conducted April 29-May 1, 2005. [View the poll results.](#)

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Calculations based on data supplied in a February 10, 2005 memo from Stephen C. Goss, SSA Chief Actuary, to Robert Pozen re: Estimated Financial Effects of a Comprehensive Social Security Reform Proposal Including Progressive Price Indexing. [View the memo online.](#)

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

\* These figures exclude income from personal accounts. Expected benefits for account holders would be even higher.